WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing method comprising steps of:

discriminating each image orientation for each of

5   a plurality of input images;

correcting each image based on said recognized

orientation; and

recognizing characters contained in said corrected

image.

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2.   An image processing method according to claim

1, wherein said image orientation discrimination step

is selectively performed.

15   3.   An image processing method according to claim

1, further comprising a step of switching to determine

whether said image orientation discriminating step

should be performed in accordance with the information

which has been set before input of said images.

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4.   An image processing method according to claim

1, wherein, in said image correcting step, said image

is corrected to be in a reference orientation.

25   5.   An image processing method according to claim

1, further comprising steps of:

judging accuracy of said recognized orientation is

determined; and

    providing result of the judgement as an output.

    6. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said orientation discriminating step is performed on character images.

    7. An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

    judging accuracy of said recognized orientation; and

    storing result of the judgement as information relating to said image.

    8. An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of setting condition to perform tilt corrections in case that instructions to perform said image orientation discrimination has been made.

    9. An image processing device comprising:

    means for discriminating each image orientation for each plurality of input images;

    means for correcting each image based on said recognized orientation; and

    means for recognizing characters contained in said corrected image.

10. An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising means for controlling said orientation discrimination means so that said image orientation discrimination is selectively performed.

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11. An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising means for switching to determine whether said image orientation discrimination should be performed in accordance with the information which has

10 set before input of said images.

12. An image processing device according to claim 9, wherein said correction means corrects said image to be in a reference orientation.

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13. An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for judging the accuracy of said recognized orientation; and

20 means for providing results of the judgment as an output.

14. An image processing device according to claim 9, wherein said orientation discrimination means

25 performs the orientation discrimination on character images.

15. An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for judging accuracy of said recognized orientation; and

means for storing result of the judgement as information relating to said image.

16. An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising means for setting condition to perform tilt corrections, in case that instruction to perform said image orientation discrimination has been made.

17. A computer-readable storage medium containing:

program codes for discriminating the orientation of each of a plurality of input images;

program codes for correcting each image based on said recognized orientation; and

program codes for recognizing characters contained in said corrected image.

18. A storage medium according to claim 17, further containing program codes for selectively performing said image orientation discrimination.

19. A storage medium according to claim 17,

further containing program codes for switching to determine whether said image orientation discrimination should be performed in accordance with the information which has been set before input of said images.

20. A storage medium according to claim 17, further containing program codes for correcting said image to be in reference orientation.

21. A storage medium according to claim 17, further containing:

program codes for judging accuracy of said recognized orientation; and

program code for providing result of the judgement as an output.

22. A storage medium according to claim 17, further containing program code for said orientation discrimination performs orientation recognition on character images.

23. A storage medium according to claim 17, further containing:

program codes for judging accuracy of said recognized orientation; and

program codes for storing result of the judgement said as information relating said image.

24.	A storage medium according to claim 17,
further containing program code for setting condition
to perform tilt correction in case that instruction to
perform said image orientation discrimination has been
5	made.